

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 H-02

SSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06

PRS-01 /063 W

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R 191833Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6979

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

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AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY LISBON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, FR

SUBJECT: JANUARY 12 FRENCH CABINET CHANGE -- FURTHER
BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

REF: A) PARIS 00940; B) PARIS 01104; C) PARIS 01550

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1. PARIS 01104 PROVIDED BIOGRAPHIC SUMMARIES ON EIGHT OF THE FIGURES INVOLVED IN JANUARY 12 CABINET CHANGE. FOLLOWING IS INFORMATION ON THE REMAINING 6 INDIVIDUALS.

2. PIERRE MEHAIGNERIE, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE -- MEHAIGNERIE, 36, IS THE SON OF A PROVINCIAL FARMER WHO WAS HIMSELF A DEPUTY. FOLLOWING STUDIES IN PARIS AND RENNES WHERE HE SPECIALIZED IN AGRICULTURE AND RURAL ENGINEERING, MEHAIGNERIE WORKED TWO YEARS IN TUNISIA AS A "COOPERANT" (ROUGHLY EQUIVALENT TO OUR PEACE CORPS.). DURING THE NEXT FOUR YEARS, HE WAS ATTACHED FIRST TO THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND THEN TO THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE. IN THIS CONNECTION, IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT MEHAIGNERIE'S TERMS IN THESE TWO MINISTRIES COINCIDED VERY CLOSELY WITH THOSE OF JACQUES DUHAMEL, MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE FROM 1969 TO 1971 AND MINISTER OF CULTURE FROM 1971 TO 1973. MEHAIGNERIE IS SAID TO BE SOMETHING OF A PROTEGE TO DUHAMEL, WHO IS PRESIDENT OF THE CENTRE DEMOCRATIE ET PROGRES PARTY (CDP). MEHAIGNERIE WAS ELECTED AS A DEPUTY ON THE CDP TICKET IN 1973. IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, MEHAIGNERIE WAS REGARDED AS AN EXPERT ON AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS.

3. DURING THE 1974 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS MEHAIGNERIE BROKE WITH HIS PARTY TO SUPPORT GISCARD OVER CHABAN-DELMAS IN FIRST ROUND VOTING. A TALL, SOMEWHAT HEAVY MAN WITH A DRAWL IN HIS FRENCH, HE IS SLOW TO SMILE AND SLOWER TO LAUGH. IN CONVERSATION HE LISTENS CAREFULLY, THEN ANSWERS IN A SLOW, METHODICAL MANNER. HE HAS BEEN TO THE UNITED STATES ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, THE FIRST IN 1959 WHEN, WITH A FRIEND, HE SPENT TWO MONTHS HITCHHIKING ACROSS AMERICA, AND MOST RECENTLY, IN 1975, WHEN HE TRAVELED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE GERMAN MARSHALL FUND. MEHAIGNERIE, WHO SPEAKS FAIR ENGLISH, IS MARRIED TO AN AMERICAN FROM ROCHESTER, NEW YORK. HE IS A MEMBER OF THE FRANCO/AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP GROUP IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.

4. JEAN TIBERI, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR AGRIBUSINESS -- LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BARELY 40 YEARS OF AGE, TIBERI WAS NAMED TO THE NEWLY CREATED POST OF SECRETARY OF STATE FOR AGRIBUSINESS FOLLOWING SOME 11 YEARS SERVICE AS A PARISIAN MUNICIPAL COUNSELOR AND NINE YEARS IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AS A GAULLIST DEPUTY. HOLDING A LAW DEGREE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF PARIS, TIBERI BEGAN HIS CAREER AS A PUBLIC PROSECUTOR. IN 1960, HE REJOINED THE UNIVERSITY OF PARIS LAW FACULTY BEFORE BEING ELECTED

TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AS A GAULLIST DEPUTY FROM THE
LATIN QUARTER. PRESIDENT OF THE UDR GROUPING IN THE
PARIS COUNCIL, TIBERI HAS OFTEN BEEN AT ODDS WITH
JACQUES DOMINATI, AN INFLUENTIAL LEADER OF THE
REPUBLICAN INDEPENDENT PARTY AND HIMSELF A DEPUTY FROM
PARIS. TIBERI IS SAID TO BE CLOSE TO PRIME MINISTER
CHIRAC AND, LIKE CHIRAC, WAS ACTIVE IN GISCARD'S 1974
CAMPAIGN. HE, ALONG WITH DOMINATI AND NEWLY APPOINTED
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE INTERIOR PIERRE-CHRISTIAN
TAITTINGER, IS REPORTEDLY CONSIDERING RUNNING FOR THE
NEWLY CREATED POSITION OF MAYOR OF PARIS. TIBERI IS
MARRIED AND HAS TWO CHILDREN.

5. MME ALICE SAUNIER-SEITE, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR

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R 191833Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6980

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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UNIVERSITIES --AN ATTRACTIVE FIFTY-YEAR-OLD WIDOW,
MME SAUNIER-SEITE HOLDS A DOCTORATE IN LETTERS FROM
THE SORBONNE. SHE BEGAN HER CAREER IN 1959 WITH THE
NATIONAL CENTER FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH. FROM 1963
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TO 1969 SHE TAUGHT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF RENNES.
FOLLOWING THREE YEARS AS DIRECTOR OF THE TECHNICAL
INSTITUTE AT SCEAUX, SHE BECAME THE FIRST WOMAN
RECTOR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF REIMS. SHE IS ALSO THE
FIRST WOMAN TO HOLD THE POST OF SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR UNIVERSITIES.

6. MME. SAUNIER-SEITE'S POLITICAL VIEWS ARE UNKNOWN,
BUT SHE REPORTEDLY ENJOYED GOOD RELATIONS WITH ALL
UNIVERSITY POLITICAL FACTIONS. DURING THE 1968
UNIVERSITY UPHEAVALS, SHE SIDED WITH THE STUDENTS,
BUT NOT SO MUCH AS TO DAMAGE HER REPUTATION AMONG HER
PROFESSIONAL COLLEAGUES. IN 1974, SHE REPORTEDLY
WAS OFFERED THE POST OF SECRETARY OF STATE FOR
WOMEN'S AFFAIRS, BUT TURNED IT DOWN WITH THE COMMENT,
"I'VE ALWAYS DONE A MAN'S JOB."

7. MME. SAUNIER-SEITE HAS BEEN TWICE MARRIED AND IS
A WIDOW BY HER SECOND HUSBAND. WITH HER STRIKING
APPEARANCE SHE HAS MADE SOMETHING OF A SPLASH IN TV
NEWS PROGRAMMING. VERY AMBITIOUS PROFESSIONALLY AND
POLITICALLY SHE IS EXPECTED TO USE HER PRESENT
POSITION AS A SPRINGBOARD TO GREATER HEIGHTS. THERE IS
ALREADY TALK OF HER BEING A REPUBLICAN INDEPENDENT
CANDIDATE IN THE NEXT PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS. SHE HAS
TWO CHILDREN AND IS AN AVID FENCER AND FISHERWOMAN.

8. LIONEL STOLERU, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR MANUAL
LABOR -- A GRADUATE OF THE ECOLE POLYTECHNIQUE AND
HOLDING A DOCTORATE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF STANFORD IN
ECONOMICS, STOLERU, 38, HAD BEEN ACTIVE IN FINANCIAL
AFFAIRS WITH THE CREDIT LYONNAIS BANKING CORPORATION

BEFORE JOINING VALERIE GISCARD D'ESTAING (1969), THEN MINISTER OF FINANCE, AS A TECHNICAL COUNSELOR. ON HIS ELECTION TO THE PRESIDENCY, GISCARD CALLED STOLERU TO THE ELYSEE AS AN ECONOMIC ADVISER. WHILE THERE, STOLERU DIRECTED A STUDY ON UPGRADING MANUAL LABOR WHICH BECAME THE BASIS OF A GOVERNMENT SPONSORED REFORM BILL SLATED FOR CONSIDERATION DURING THE 1976 NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SESSION. SINCE 1969 STOLERU HAS BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH THE ECOLE POLYTECHNIQUE AS A PROFESSOR

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OF ECONOMICS AND, SINCE 1973, WITH THE NATIONAL SCHOOL OF ADMINISTRATION WHERE HE OVERSEES A SEMINAR. HE IS RESERVED IN HIS MANNER AND SOMEWHAT LESS ARTICULATE THAN MOST FRENCH OFFICIALS IN PROMINENT POSITIONS. HIGHLY INTELLIGENT, HE HAS EARNED THE REPUTATION OF BEING EXTREMELY GOOD IN STAFF WORK AND ON POSITION PAPERS. HE MAINTAINS FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH

ATTALI, ALSO AN ECONOMIST, AND CLOSE ADVISER TO FRANCOIS MITTERRAND. STOLERU IS MARRIED AND HAS ONE CHILD.

9. CHRISTIANE SCRIVENER, STATE SECRETARY FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS-- UNTIL HER APPOINTMENT TO THE CABINET, MME SCRIVENER, 51, WAS DIRECTOR OF A PRIVATE FIRM WHICH SHE FOUNDED IN 1958 DEALING IN TECHNICAL TRAINING FOR FOREIGNERS IN FRANCE AND FRENCHMEN

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PRS-01 /063 W

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R 191833Z JAN 76
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6981
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
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ABROAD. HER EDUCATION INCLUDES LANGUAGE STUDIES
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SPRINGFIELD AND A DEGREE FROM
THE HARVARD BUSINESS SCHOOL. MME SCRIVENER IS MARRIED
TO THE WELL KNOWN INDUSTRIALIST, PIERRE SCRIVENER AND
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IS A SISTER OF JEAN FRIES WHO IS DIRECTOR OF INTERNAL
COMMERCE AT THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, AND WHO ALSO
SERVES AS AN ASSISTANT TO THE MAYOR OF ST. CLAUDE,
JEAN FURCADE. THE SCRIVENERS HAVE ONE CHILD.

L0. PAUL GRANET, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE ENVIRON-
MENT -- HOLDING AN ADVANCED DEGREE FROM THE NATIONAL
SCHOOL OF ADMINISTRATION, PAUL GRANET, 45, BEGAN HIS
CAREER AS A CIVIL ADMINISTRATOR IN LAOS. HE NEXT
BECAME CHIEF OF CABINET TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE
FRENCH POLICE (1962), BEFORE BEING NAMED CHIEF OF
MISSION IN THE CABINET OF ROGER FREY, MINISTER OF THE
INTERIOR (1964). RETURNING TO PRIVATE LIFE, GRANET
HEADED A REAL ESTATE COMPANY UNTIL HIS ELECTION AS

UDR DEPUTY FROM THE AUBE IN 1967. REELECTED IN 1968 AND 1973, HE IS SAID TO BE INCREASINGLY DISILLUSIONED WITH THE GAULLIST PARTY, WHOSE STYLE HE HAS DESCRIBED AS "RULE BY SUCCESSIVE COUP D'ETATS." GRANET IS KNOWN AS SOMETHING OF AN INTELLECTUAL, AND IS A DIRECTOR OF THE EDGAR FAURE'S COMMITTEE FOR A NEW SOCIAL CONTRACT. HE WAS ONE OF THE SIGNERS OF THE "CALL OF FORTY-THREE" STAGEMANAGED BY CHIRAC TO MUSTER UDR SUPPORT FOR THE 1974 GISCARD CANDIDACY.

11. GRANET IS AN INTENSE PERSON WITH STRONG CONNECTIONS AND GREAT ENERGY. NEVERTHELESS, HE GIVES THE IMPRESSION OF BEING ON THE DEFENSIVE AND SOMETHING OF A SNOB. HE HAS LITTLE TIME OR INTEREST IN PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT USEFUL TO HIM AND HIS CAREER. HE PROBABLY RANKS AMONG THOSE LEAST FRIENDLY TO THE UNITED STATES AMONG PEOPLE OF HIS GENERATION NOW IN RESPONSIBLE GOV POSITIONS. GRANET IS MARRIED AND HAS TWO CHILDREN. UNTIL HIS NEW APPOINTMENT, HE WAS MINISTER FOR VOCATIONAL EDUCATION.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CABINET, BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, REORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PARIS01733
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760020-0008
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760144/aaaabmyo.tel
Line Count: 352
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 7
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 PARIS 940, 76 PARIS 1104, 76 PARIS 1550
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 MAR 2004 by izenbel0>; APPROVED <12 MAY 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JANUARY 12 FRENCH CABINET CHANGE -- FURTHER BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, FR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006